

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A surgical fastener for clamping surfaces of a plurality of layers of material together, comprising:

a ribbon wire having ~~a substantially rectangular cross section~~, first and second ends and made from a material which enables the ribbon wire to be transformed from a first stressed elongate shape to a second ~~unstressed shape~~ of reduced stress upon the release of said ribbon wire from a stressed condition~~the first stressed elongate shape~~, the first stressed elongate shape of said ribbon wire enabling it's~~the~~ first end to be extended through the plurality of layers of material, and ~~with the~~ second shape of said ribbon wire being in the form of a spring with a ~~plurality of coils around a spring axis, with the coils~~first coil at the first end of the ribbon wire and a second coil at the second end of the ribbon wire, the first coil and the second coil being spring biased towards each other along the spring axis with sufficient axial force so as to ~~enable coils on opposite sides of the layers to clamp the layers of material together along the spring axis~~therebetween.

2. (Currently amended) The surgical fastener according to claim 1, wherein ~~said ribbon wire has~~the first and second coils, when aligned, define an axial thickness and a radial thickness, ~~said~~the axial thickness is parallel to the spring axis, saidlying along a center line of the first and second coils and the radial thickness isbeing perpendicular to the axial thickness, and wherein the axial thickness is greater than the radial thickness.

3. (Currently amended) The surgical fastener according to claim 1, wherein the ribbon wire ~~forms~~includes a notch therein, ~~and the notch is configured for engagement with a push rod.~~

4. (Currently amended) The surgical fastener according to claim 1, ~~and further including~~comprising:

a needle for penetrating ~~said~~the layers and having a lumen sized to slidably receive ~~said~~the ribbon wire in it's~~the~~ first shape and an externally manipulatable push rod sized to slidably move through ~~said~~the lumen to advance ~~said~~the ribbon wire ~~stored therein~~ to a distal end of the needle to

enable a distal portion of ~~said~~the ribbon wire to resume ~~its~~the unstressed coiled shape on ~~the one~~a side of ~~said~~the layers of material when projected from ~~said~~the lumen by the push rod while another portion of ~~said~~the ribbon wire remains within ~~said~~the lumen ~~in said stressed shape~~ until ejected from ~~said~~the lumen by ~~said~~the push rod on ~~the other~~another side of ~~said~~the layers of material to form ~~an unstressed coiled~~the second shape to clamp the layers of material together.

5. (Currently amended) The surgical fastener according to claim 1, wherein one of the layers is tissue and wherein ~~said~~the first and second coils are spring biased so as to produce ~~between said coils~~ a sufficiently high compressive hemostasis gripping force ~~when said tissue and said other layer of material are between said pair of adjacent coils~~there between to maintain ~~said~~the tissue and ~~said~~the layer of material in sealed contact with each other.

6-14. (Cancelled)